

My goal in life is to run for an elected government position. This stems from my interest in politics starting in the fourth grade. The fourth grade is when Kentucky requires students to learn about state government. We went to the state capitol and learned about the different positions that work there. Since then I have volunteered for Andy Beshear's gubernatorial election campaign, studied government in high school and college, and volunteered for the Northern Kentucky Teen Court. From all this my passion for public service continues to grow stronger. Now, as a sophomore studying political science, the Civic Leaders Internship Program (CLIP) is an opportunity that really excites me.

A trait of a strong intern is being able to jump into any situation without hesitation. For the past four summers I have been working as a camp counselor at the summer camp that I grew up attending. This past summer I was on the camp's leadership team, in charge of all the youngest campers and their counselors. I had many situations where I had to spring into action with the appearance of confidence. For example, there was a night where during the evening program there were two kids in the nurse's office who needed to call home, a kid who was crying about not making friends, and a counselor who wanted to report a serious situation to me. Each of these required my immediate attention so I had to stay calm and take it one step at a time, while delegating jobs along the way. While debriefing with my supervisor she affirmed my decisions and helped me feel proud of my ability to handle a high pressure situation.

An important part of politics is representing a diverse group of voices. One overlooked community is the elderly. I have had the pleasure of working as a server in nursing homes throughout high school and college. Building true connections with the residents has made an impact on my life and to how I see seniors. Nursing home residents are often seen as bothersome and rude. They complain about mundane things such as their meal portions being too big or their coffee cups being too small. Rather than taking offense, I always strive to make them feel heard whether it is giving them two cups of coffee or assuring them it is okay if they can not eat all their food. This is another one of my strengths, I am able to empathize no matter how small the problem seems to me and work towards a solution.

An internship in the Missouri State Capitol would support me in furthering my career. It would expose me to the work environment of a busy state house and help me build more connections within the political world. Networking is crucial in politics. This internship would get my foot in the door and give me real experience in the work I hope to do one day.